

# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## PURSuing CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



Through her time in office, Governor Whitmer has collaborated with Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Attorney General Dana Nessel, Chief Justice Bridget McCormack, and bipartisan partners in the legislature to enact historic criminal justice reform. She has signed historic bipartisan “Clean Slate” laws which will help hundreds of thousands of Michiganders emerge from the criminal justice system with enhanced opportunities for jobs and housing and allow them to pursue their full potential. She also launched task forces to address pretrial incarceration and juvenile justice and pursued reforms to improve relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve.

### TAKING ACTION FOR JUSTICE

- Signed Clean Slate bills to make hundreds of thousands of Michiganders eligible to have their records expunged, expanding their opportunities for jobs and housing and invested millions of dollars to assist returning citizens with expungement
  - Over 80,000 more Detroiters are now eligible to have past mistakes removed from their record and get a chance at a new start
- Signed Clean Slate For Kids package which creates a process to automatically expunge juvenile records for those who don't commit future offenses
- Signed Raise the Age bills to ensure anyone under 18 years old will be treated as a minor in juvenile court and receive the rehabilitation services that are offered in the juvenile justice system to reduce recidivism.
- Signed the Good Moral Character package to expand opportunities for Michiganders post-conviction or post-judgment by reforming occupational licensing.
- Announced the creation of “Jobs Court,” a court diversion pilot program to put hundreds of Michiganders accused of low-level, nonviolent offenses in good-paying jobs to reduce recidivism and help businesses struggling with workforce shortages to staff up.
- Signed a package of bills to limit civil asset forfeiture for individuals who have not been convicted of a crime. These bills will make law enforcement unable to permanently take ownership of cash and other property seized in drug cases.
- Signed a bill to allow individuals who committed a drug-related offense, or have outstanding warrants for such offenses, to access to critical benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Established a policy that will guarantee critical medical resources and support to Department of Corrections' pregnant and post-partum prisoners and their newborns.
- Launched two task forces to reduce the disparity of Black Michiganders in jail.
  - Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration to expand alternatives to jail, safely reduce jail admissions and length of stay, and improve the effectiveness of the front end of Michigan's justice system.
  - Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform to analyze Michigan's juvenile justice system and recommend proven practices and strategies for reform.



***“Every Michigander, no matter their community or the color of their skin, deserves equal treatment under the law. We must ensure that law enforcement officials treat all Michiganders with dignity and respect, and continue to keep our communities safe. I will continue working with leaders in law enforcement to make public safety more just and equitable in Michigan.”***

**- Governor Gretchen Whitmer**

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Developed a four-pillar plan to strengthen police-community relations in partnership with community leaders and law enforcement organizations.
  - Improve police standards and training to reduce police violence,
  - Build a more emphatic and diverse police force to establish a foundation for future recruiting and hiring efforts,
  - Increase trust between police officers and the communities they serve, and
  - Prevent improper use of force by holding officers accountable, remove barriers that impede officer accountability, and make data available to the public.
- Created the Bridges to BLUE – Build Listen Unite Engage – a citizen advisory council to the Michigan State Police (MSP) leadership that will provide an outside perspective into MSP practices impact on and perception by Michigan residents.
- Expanded the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to include the Director of the Department of Civil Rights and bring more community voices to the table as the commission considers police improvements for our state. Called on MCOLES to provide guidance to law enforcement agencies on continuing education to help officers keep up with the ever-changing landscape of new laws and issues facing the community, including diversity and implicit bias training.
- Established community service trooper positions to institute a community policing concept statewide.
- Developed a new transparency and accountability web page providing the public with access to information on use of force and traffic stop data, department policies, and training requirements.
- Implemented recurring implicit bias training and training on responding to situations involving people with mental illnesses for all law enforcement officers in Michigan.
- Invested millions of dollars to expand the use of body cameras, provide de-escalation trainings and other professional development and training efforts for law enforcement.
- Leveraged grant funding from the Department of Justice Grant for Community Policing Development and De-Escalation training.
- Called on the legislature to enact ban chokeholds, further limit the use of no-knock warrants, require independent investigations of all police shootings, require “duty to intervene” policies, classify false, racially motivated 911 calls as a hate crime, and mandate retention of disciplinary records resulting from improper use of force.